



*Office of the United States Attorney*  
*District of Arizona*  
**José de Jesus Rivera**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 6, 2000**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
(602) 514-7561

### **NAVAJO AND HOPI TRIBAL LEADERS SEEK A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION AND RESPECT FOR ALL TRIBAL RESIDENTS WHO LIVE ON THE HPL**

**ARIZONA -- KELSEY A. BEGAYE**, President of the Navajo Nation, **WAYNE TAYLOR, JR.**, Chairman of the Hopi Tribe, **JOSE DE JESUS RIVERA**, U.S. Attorney, and **CHRISTOPHER J. BAVASI**, from the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (O.N.I.H.R.), have joined together to request that those who are interested in protesting potential evictions from the Hopi Partitioned Land (HPL), respect the rights of those who remain on the land. The HPL is home to Hopi families and many Navajo families who have entered into the Accommodation Agreement and continue to reside on the land. It is, respectfully, requested that people who are interested in protesting potential evictions, do not upset the daily life of those who live, peacefully, on the HPL. Additionally, January and February mark an important period of spiritual observance and celebration for the Hopi people and respect for these cultural traditions is requested.

Attached is a statement from the tribal leaders and the Department of Justice regarding the current status of the HPL, and an accurate summary of the events that will occur in the near future.

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